

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The April 5, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are amended and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The claims are amended to remove reference numerals which were previously present in the claims. The removal of the reference numerals is respectfully believed not to constitute new matter and the amendments are not related to the patentability of the claimed invention.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

In the Office Action, claim 9 is rejected under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the limitation "first-named communication connection" is not disclosed in the specification. In response, claim 9 is amended

in a sincere effort to overcome the rejection under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112. In view of the amendment of claim 9, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 are respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTION

In the Office Action, claims 1-22 (incorrectly listed on page 2 of the Office Action as claims 1-27) are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over USP 6,175,619 (DeSimone) in view of USP 6,636,504 (Albers et al).

It is noted that the present application has a priority date under 35 USC 119 of December 5, 1997, which is earlier than the U.S. filing dates of the DeSimone (July 8, 1998) and Albers et al. (March 18, 1999) references. The priority date of the present application is also earlier than the U.S. filing dates of the other U.S. references which were cited as of interest by the Examiner. It is respectfully pointed out that the United States Patent Office has acknowledged receipt of the priority document on Form PCT/DO/EO/903 dated August 11, 2000, a copy of which is transmitted herewith. Applicants perfected the priority claim under 35 USC 119 to obtain the benefit of the earlier filing date by submitting a certified copy of the Priority Application No. NL 1007702 filed December 5, 1997 along with an accurate English

translation. The submission of the certified copy of the priority document and the accurate English translation was made on August 1, 2000. A copy of Applicants' transmittal letter is enclosed herewith. Since a certified copy of the priority application and an accurate English translation of the priority document were submitted to the Patent Office, and since the accurate English translation clearly shows that the claims are fully supported by the original Dutch disclosure, the claims pending in the present application are entitled to the priority date.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the references cited and relied upon by the Examiner are no longer proper references against the claimed subject matter of the present application. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 USC 103 have been overcome.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 103 is respectfully requested.

* * * * *

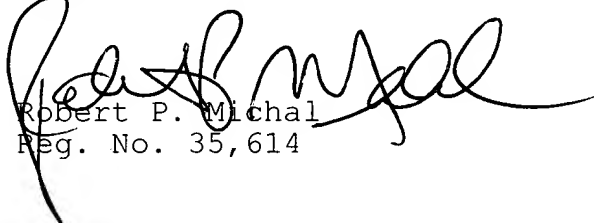
Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Appln. No. 09/555,685
Amendment dated June 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2004

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Copy of Submission of Priority Document(s)
Form PCT/DO/EO/903

09/555685



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U.S. APPLICATION NO.

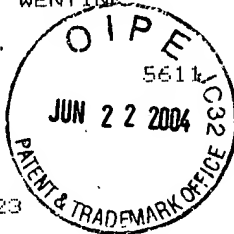
09/555,685

WENT LINE

FIRST NAMED APPLICANT

U.S. PAT. DOCKET NO.

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

I.A. FILING DATE

12/02/98

PRIORITY DATE

12/15/97

08/11/00

DATE MAILED:

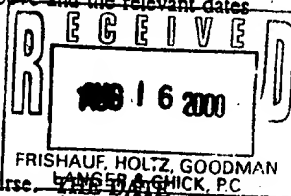
NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 AND 37 CFR 1.494 OR 1.495

1. The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as ☐ a Designated Office (37 CFR 1.494), ☒ an Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is ACCEPTED for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

2. The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

01 Aug 00
35 U.S.C. 371(e) DATE

01 Aug 00
DATE OF RECEIPT OF
35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS



A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. 01 June 00 APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE "FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371(C) REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE. The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363). Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

3. ☒ A request for immediate examination under 35 U.S.C. 371(f) was received on 01 June 00 and the application will be examined in turn.

4. The following items have been received:

- ☒ U.S. Basic National Fee.
- ☒ Copy of the international application in:
 - ☐ a non-English language.
 - ☒ English.
- ☐ Translation of the international application into English.
- ☒ Oath or Declaration of Inventor(s) for DO/EO/US.
- ☐ Copy of Article 19 amendments. ☐ Translation of Article 19 amendments into English.
- ☒ The Article 19 amendments ☐ have ☐ have not been entered.
- ☒ The International Preliminary Examination Report in English and its Annexes, if any.
- ☒ Copy of the Annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER).
 - ☐ Translation of Annexes to the IPER into English.
- ☒ The Annexes ☒ have ☐ have not been entered.
- ☒ Preliminary amendment(s) filed 01 June 00 and _____
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) filed 01 June 00 and _____
- ☐ Assignment document.
- ☐ Power of Attorney and/or Change of Address.
- ☐ Substitute specification filed _____
- ☐ Statement Claiming Small Entity Status.
- ☒ Priority Document.
- ☒ Copy of the International Search Report ☒ and copies of the references cited therein.
- ☐ Other:

Applicant is reminded that any communication to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above. (37 CFR 1.5)

Kaya Baltimore

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FORM PCT/DO/EO/903 (December 1997)

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